



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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July 25, 2000

Steve Ritchie, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

We have reviewed the June 9, 2000 document entitled California's Water Future: A Framework for Action developed by Governor Davis and Secretary of Interior Babbitt. This plan outlines the near-term implementation of the CALFED program designed to address the problems of water quality and conveyance through the Bay-Delta.

We are very concerned about the discussion regarding the management of groundwater, in particular Appendix H. Although we are in receipt of a letter from you to the Northern California Water Association (NCWA) dated July 10, 2000, which attempts to clarify Appendix H, we would like to go on record as protesting any attempt to circumvent the power of local government with regard to the regulation of groundwater. Accordingly, we request that you incorporate the clarifying language of your correspondence to NCWA into the Federal Record of Decision.

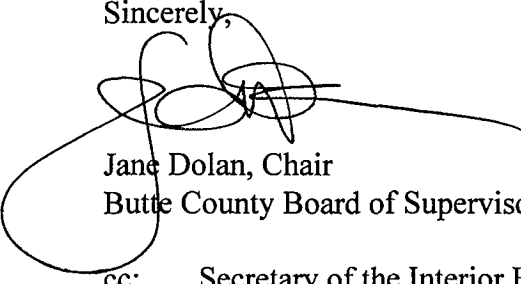
There are circumstances associated with groundwater management within Butte County that are unique. Similar to other counties throughout the state, Butte County has a groundwater protection ordinance which requires a permit for the transfer of surface water outside of the county if the surface water is replaced by groundwater for overlying uses. However, unlike other counties, Butte County's ordinance evolved through the initiative process and was passed by the electorate in November 1996. Therefore, this ordinance, as a voter mandate, is somewhat different from groundwater protection ordinances in other counties that have been developed and passed by the Board of Supervisors.

We believe that our groundwater ordinance is a request by our citizenry to protect our groundwater in a specific manner. We have spent innumerable hours and staff resources toward the implementation of the groundwater protection ordinance in Butte County working with water districts as well as both environmental and landowner groups throughout this process. We therefore, do not agree with any approach to groundwater

management which would place AB3030 plans over the statutory authority voted in by the citizens of our county. In addition, we do not believe that local water management ordinances should be subject to state overview.

The CALFED Program has continually maintained that it is in support of local control. Taking the regulatory power over groundwater away from local government is a step in the wrong direction for CALFED and is in direct conflict with their guiding principles. We encourage CALFED to reconsider their approach to groundwater management and allow local government to respond directly to their citizenry on this issue. We look forward to the inclusion of specific verbiage in the upcoming Record of Decision which clarifies the confusion contained in Appendix H and retains the concept of local control over groundwater.

Sincerely,



Jane Dolan, Chair
Butte County Board of Supervisors

cc: Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt
Governor Gray Davis
Secretary of Resources Mary Nichols
Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Diane Feinstein
Congressman Wally Herger
Congressman Doug Ose
Senator Maurice Johannessen
Senator Tim Leslie
Assemblyman Sam Aanestad
Assemblyman Dick Dickerson